

The OSCILLATOR

Volume 30 Issue 9
September 2007

Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club

The Oregon Tualatin Valley Amateur Radio Club is a special service club related to ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio. We seek to advance the Amateur Radio Service through:

- ⇒ Education and Training of new and licensed amateurs
- ⇒ Public Service and Emergency communication
- ⇒ Hobby nets, contests and meetings
- ⇒ Social events

Membership is available to anyone interested in amateur radio. A license is not required.

North American QSO Party

The North American QSO Party was another fun time.

Here is a brief summary of our results. Things picked up towards the end with our hourly rate pushing over 20/hour. Results were not too bad considering band conditions. If 15-meters had opened our multipliers would have gone way up. Fewer (by percentage) multipliers kept our score down. States contacted were spread all over the country, even some DX.

Attending:

Everett W6ABM
Kristen K7KWT
Mike K7CIE
Gavin K7AWS
Ron KD7VIK
Joel AD7IS
Steve AD7OG
Margie KE7HUR

Contacts: 136
Multipliers: 54
Score: 7,344 points
States: 30
Canadian: 2 Provinces
DX: New Zealand
(Lighthouse Event)

We worked:

Alabama, Arizona, California, Florida, Colorado, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Kansas, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming and West Virginia.

CLUB MEETING SEPTEMBER 12th

OTVARC is affiliated with ARRL: The National Association for Amateur Radio and is a *Special Service Club*. We meet on the second Wednesday of each month.

Our September 12th meeting will be held at **The Peppermill Restaurant, 17455 SW Farmington Rd, Beaverton, at the Y with Kinnaman Road**, phone: 503.642.5193. This will be our new meeting location for the remainder of this year.

James Boyd K7MKN has been a ham since 1960. He has had a lifelong involvement in electronics. After high school Jim studied electronics at Central Oregon Community College in Bend. He began a broadcast career at KBND in Bend in 1965. Jim worked at stations in Pendleton, Bend and Portland. In 1991 he gave up a steady paycheck and become a contract engineer. As a contractor, he installed the first digital radio station in Portland, KGON. Since then, Jim has installed more than two dozen HD radio stations all over the western United States. **Jim will give us an update on HD/Digital Broadcasting.**

Several of the States on the list are hard to work so a pat on the back for a job well done.

Special thanks to **Gavin K7AWS** for supplying and cooking the Cajun Beans and Rice Dinner, Thanks Gavin.

The Contest Group exists within the club to encourage on-air operation and the development of operating skills. All members are welcome to join in the fun. We'll do several events a year of varied types. Want to learn more? I'm glad to respond to your questions about the group and its plans for 2008.

Ron O'Connor - KD7VIK
OTVARC Contest Coordinator

Happy September Birthday

3	Adam Ferris	KD7TQX
7	Luther Brisky	KC7KVL
15	Dale Planer	KA7TZU
15	Bob Heath	KD7OHF
23	Ryan Heath	KD7QZL
28	Dick Lukins	KD7YGB

Have we missed your birthday?
Likely we do not have your correct date in our database.

Send updates and corrections to otvarc@gmail.com

GENERAL CLASS UPDATE SERIES

The General Class Upgrade Series is offered September 29, October 2, 4, and 6. Saturday sessions are 8:30 to Noon and Tuesday/Thursday 6:30 to 9:30 pm. The twelve-hour preparation course assists Technician Class licensees to upgrade their licenses. The Exam follows on October 6th. at 1:00 pm. There is no charge for the series. Purchase a copy of GENERAL CLASS FCC LICENSE PREPARATION by Gordon West WB6NOA (available at HRO, \$20.95) and read it prior to the first class.

The series is taught at Ronler Acres Fire Station in Hillsboro. Class ELMERS assist in helping class members with questions in the new General Class Pool (effective July 1, 2007).

Ron KD7VIK, Will N7THL, Carl W57L, and Everett W6ABM lead the course. If you would like to be included, drop an email to otvarc@gmail.com. Signups are open now.

OTVARC SNAIL ADDRESS:
880 NE 25th Ave Ste 2-160
Hillsboro OR 97124-6258

LUNCH BUNCH

There will be
NO Lunch Bunch
In September

For More Information, call
Linda KC7YTD
503.246.8879



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STEVE KE7JSS APPOINTED TO OREGON SECTION POST

Bonnie Altus AB7ZQ, Oregon Section Manager, has appointed **Steven Sanders KE7JSS** as Oregon Section Public Information Coordinator (PIC). The appointment was announced at the ARES Section Leadership Conference and takes place immediately. Steve replaces **Everett Curry W6ABM** who has served the section in this role for more than five years. Everett continues his service to the section as **Assistant Section Manager for ARRL Membership**.

Steve, an OTVARC member, has served as Washington County ARES and District 1 ARES Public Information Officer (PIO). The PIC interprets amateur radio to the general public and media, seeks opportunities to tell the amateur radio story, and responds to information requests on behalf of Oregon's licensed amateur radio operators. He will assist, recruit and train PIOs in affiliated clubs, Oregon's districts, and other ARRL entities to interpret their mission.

Steve joins **Everett W6ABM** and **Will N7THL** on the section cabinet. Will serves as Affiliated Club Coordinator for Oregon Section.

146.960 MHz Repeater By Shoutcast

16 JULY 07 - 16 AUGUST 07

Location	Visitors	Play Duration
United States	24	11:56:32
Germany	7	1:17:21
Spain	5	0:07:43
Netherlands	4	0:17:22
United Kingdom	2	0:06:42
Taiwan	1	0:01:08
Philippines	1	0:02:41
Australia	1	0:02:42
Hungary	1	0:01:05
Switzerland	1	0:12:12
Canada	1	0:07:50
France	1	0:01:47
Japan	1	0:01:49
Total	50	14:16:54

DONATIONS BEING RECEIVED FOR GOAT MOUNTAIN REPEATER

During August, members of the amateur radio community and users of the W7OTV Goat mountain Repeater, contributed more than seven hundred dollars toward needed repairs to the transmission system. **Wes Allen K7WWG** Repeater Coordinator on the OTVARC Board of Directors, has completed an analysis of current needs...and recommended repairs before the weather makes access difficult or impossible. Changes will offer protection to the antenna system during severe cold and wind.

Each year during our Renewal of Membership process, we invite members to contribute to the Repeater Fund. We have not asked the general amateur radio community to participate in this way, however, some hams contribute each year.

The W7OTV Repeaters on Goat Mountain include the 146.960 MHz machine, the 440.250 MHz machine, and the 223.940 MHz machine which is currently awaiting re-installation at the site. The repeaters are made available to Clackamas County ARES for emergency use and frequently are used for public service events.

If you would like to assist with the current need (antenna replacement and installation), send your contribution to OTVARC Repeater Fund, 880 NE 25th Ave, STE 2-160, Hillsboro OR 97124. You may renew membership for 2008 at the same time by including \$20.00 for that purpose as well.

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BOB'S BARELL

Greetings from the barrel:

Summer is over and it is time to begin again the serious business of the club. We had two outdoor activities held at Cedar Hills Park. They were well received by all, the weather was good, and the facilities were very nice. The last event, August 8th. was a combined ice cream and tailgate flea market. It was well attended. Sales of miscellaneous items were adequate but not brisk. The many flavors of ice cream, some home-made, the cookies and drinks provided the needed sugar high. There must have been at least six different flavors, enough to satisfy all. Next year, if the club is in agreement, the Cedar Hills Park would make an excellent out door location. Your feedback is appreciated.

This month's meeting will be held at the Peppermill, located in the Baley's Thriftway Shopping center, south east side. They will set up for 61 persons, which should cover our group. Drinks are available from the attached bar and everyone can order from the menu. Separate checks will be provided. The staff are very nice and the food and service should meet everyone's expectations. It is important that the Board receive your comments, in order that, we may make a final decision as to our future meeting site.

Our Board never heard back from the Hillsboro Elks Lodge after our presentation to their Board. I assume that their silence means they do not want us back. We are looking forward to a full report from *Sea-Pac*, their accomplishments and recommendations for next year.

Your inputs to future events are very important to help guide your Board in planning interesting activities. Looking forward to seeing everyone September 12th.

73
Robert WN7O



J. Steven Sanders
Certified General Appraiser
Sanders Appraisal, PC
503-320-4100
sandersappraisal@comcast.net
Orencia Station, Hillsboro, OR 97124
Fax: 503-547-8200



QsoNet & CQ100

A virtual ham radio experience



CQ100 is computer program and QsoNet is a service designed to simulate the amateur radio experience. Not FCC regulated. Requires no special hardware.

QsoNet is a voice/data chat service nicely wrapped in a rig-shaped media player. The CQ100 enables you to chat with other users via the Internet using a simulated amateur radio environment.

The rules and guidelines for using QsoNet will be familiar to all hams. There are no over-the-air transmissions to be regulated by the FCC, so the QsoNet five commandments are:

- "1. Identify your callsign frequently.
2. Always be courteous. Do not use a frequency that is already in use.
3. Do not use voice on the CW portions of the bands.
4. Do not engage in commercial activity. No advertising.
5. Do not transmit music."

Who would pay 32 bucks a year for voice-chat? According to the member list, at least 14,00 people have found the service worth trying in the past year!

PROS:

-If you're in an environment that limits your radio use, this is a fun and ham-friendly alternative.

-It's a great place to practice. I've had success with PSK31, SSTV and CW using MixW with CQ100.

-The QsoNet is nearly free of band and frequency restrictions. "As long as you have ANY class of amateur radio license issued to you by the government of your country, you are entitled to full privileges on QsoNet."

-I can use my existing digital software and computer. Nothing else to buy. (The XYL would be pleased!)

-Easy-to-use, well thought-out service.

CONS:

-Requires a copy of your ham license. This requirement is in the spirit of keeping CQ100 to higher standards. A copy or photo of your FCC license can be emailed, faxed, or via the postal service.

-My callsign is displayed on the CQ100 as I transmit. It would be nice to display the other person's call instead. A logistics issue I suppose.

Using QsoNet isn't likely to provide you with the satisfaction of a on-the-air radio experience. It will however let you make a QSO in the worst band conditions.

I'm not likely to use QsoNet beyond my free trial. If I get a chance to learn and experiment more before the countdown finishes, I'll post my findings in the OTVARC_Chats Yahoo forum.

Once your license has been verified, you can download CQ100 and try QsoNet free for 90 days. After which, \$32.00 will get you a 1-Year subscription.

System Requirements: Windows 2000 or Windows XP. Other operating systems give mixed results. Microphone and speakers (or headphones); an Internet connection.

Feel free to email me with questions or comments.
73.

Frank, K2NCC, frank@eagleeyecomputer.com

QsoNet/CQ100 COMPANY INFO:

CorMac Technologies Inc, <http://qsonet.com/>

eMail: douglas@qsonet.com

Fax: (807) 345-7114

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Lower Vanity Call Sign Fees Sept 17

The FCC will reduce the regulatory fee to obtain or renew an Amateur Radio vanity call sign by more than 40 percent starting September 17. In a Report & Order (R&O, "Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2007" MD Docket 07-81, the Commission will cut the fee from current \$20.80 to \$11.70. This marks the lowest fee in the history of the current vanity call sign program. The FCC is authorized by the Communications Act of 1934 (as amended) to collect vanity call sign fees to recover the costs associated with that program.

The vanity call sign fee has fluctuated over the 11 years of the current program -- from a low of \$12 to a high of \$50. The FCC says it anticipates some 14,700 Amateur Radio vanity call sign "payment units" or applications during the next fiscal year, collecting \$171,990 in fees from the program.

Vanity Fee Due for New, Renewal Applications

The vanity call sign regulatory fee is payable not only when applying for a new vanity call sign, but also upon renewing a vanity call sign for a new term. The first vanity call sign licenses issued under the current Amateur Radio vanity call sign program that began in 1996 came up for renewal last year.

Those holding vanity call signs issued prior to 1996 are exempt from having to pay the vanity call sign regulatory fee at renewal, however. Such "heritage" vanity call sign holders do not appear as vanity licensees in the FCC Amateur Radio database.

Amateur Radio licensees may file for renewal only within 90 days of their license expiration date. All radio amateurs must have an FCC Registration Number (FRN) before filing any application with the Commission.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Jeff Boone KE7NVY. Jeff lives in Aloha and is a software engineer. He holds a Technician Class license. Jeff Boone <unclejeff@verizon.net>

Rock Kent W7ROK <rock@familykent.com>

Dena Kent K1DNA <dena@familykent.com>

The Kents live in Estacada and are interested in the health of the Goat Mountain 146.960 MHz Repeater. Rock is a project manager at InFocus and an Extra Class licensee. Dena holds a Technician Class license.

HAMFESTS & CONVENTIONS

28 - 30 Sep 2007

Pacific Northwest VHF+ Conference

Bend Oregon
Shilo Inn Suites Hotel
<http://www.pnwvhfs.org>

27 October 2007

SWAPTOBERFEST

Amateur Radio Emergency Services Convention
Mid-Valley ARES
Polk County Fairgrounds
Rickreall Oregon
www.swaptoberfest.net
PO Box 584
Dundee, Oregon 97115

30, 31 May, 1 June 2008

SEA-PAC

Northwestern Division Convention

www.seapac.org
C. Wayne Schuler, AI9Q
16414 NE 21st Avenue
Vancouver, WA 98684
Phone: 360-892-5580
Fax: 360-892-5580
Email: ai9q@arrl.net

Your 2007 Club Roster is available for use at:

<http://tinyurl.com/296rdb>

This URL takes you to a spread sheet with roster information. It will be kept current. Your role in the freshness of the information is to notify the club when something changes at otvarc@gmail.com.

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